

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussions, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-63 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1-19, 26 and 29-63 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 20 and 24 have been amended. Support for the amendment of Claims 20 and 24 can be found at least in the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: the specification is objected to due to typographical errors; Claims 20-21, 24 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by McGirr et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,129,098, hereinafter McGirr); Claims 20 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated to Sato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,203,020, hereinafter Sato); and, Claims 23 and 25 stand rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Official Action has objected to the specification due to typographical errors. Numerous amendments to the specification have been made to correct these informalities.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Official Action has rejected Claims 20-21, 24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by McGirr; and the Claims 20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Sato.

The Official Action has rejected Claims 23 and 25 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but otherwise indicated that Claims 23 and 25 contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

So as to efficiently bring the prosecution of the present application to a close, Applicants have elected to include the subject matter of Claim 23 into independent Claim 20, and the subject matter of Claim 25 into Claim 24. However, Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the broader claims of original Claim 20 and Claim 24 in one or more continuation applications. Nevertheless, by incorporating the features of Claims 23 and 25 into Claims 20 and 24 respectively, it is respectfully submitted that the claims as presently amended patentably define over the asserted prior art. Furthermore, the specification has been amended to address the informalities contained therein.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 20-22, and 24 and 27 and 28, as amended, patentably define over the asserted prior art. The present application is therefore believed to be condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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